

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W  
-----009662 161819Z /43

R 161110Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8908  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ML  
SUBJ: MALIAN MILITARY ARRESTS: UP-DATE AND SUMMARY

REF: (A) BAMAKO 0968, (B) BAMAKO 0990, (C) BAMAKO 1157

1. SUMMARY: ARRESTS CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT TRAORE RETURNS FROM FUND-RAISING TRIP TO ARAB STATES. INVESTIGATION OF COUP PLOT IMPLICATES LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS AND SOME CIVILIANS. PRESIDENT IS APPARENTLY TAKING MORE PERSONAL ROLE IN MALIAN LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. MORE ARRESTS. PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE RETURNED FROM SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (SEPTEL) TO A CAPITAL THAT REMAINED OUT- WARDLY TRANQUIL DURING HIS ABSENCE. BEHIND SCENES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, FORCES LOYAL TO PRESIDENT MAINTAINED STEADY RHYTHM OF ARRESTS. OVER WEEKEND, ALL BAMAKO POLICE "COMMISSAIRES" WERE ARRESTED AND A NUMBER OF CIVIL SER- VANTS AND BUSINESSMEN WERE REPORTED DETAINED. PRESI- DENT'S MEN HAVE APPARENTLY ELIMINATED POSSIBILITY OF RESISTANCE BY OPPOSITION.

3. RADIO MALI ANNOUNCED MARCH 13 AND OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR PUBLISHED MARCH 14 A LIST OF 33 MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ABORTED COUP. IN ADDITION TO CHIEFS-OF-STAFF OF GENDARMERIE AND ARMY, VICE CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF AIR FORCE, AND COMMANDERS OF KATI BASE AND BAMAKO PARATROOP COMPANY, LIST NAMES SEVERAL LOW-RANKING POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN BRIEFED BY THEN SECURITY CHIEF BAGAYOKO REGARDING THEIR DUTIES DURING PLANNED COUP.

4. WIDE-SPREAD COLLUSION. "EVIDENCE" FROM ON-GOING INVESTIGATION INTO COUP PLOT SUGGESTS THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES BAGAYOKO, AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS BEMBELE DID PLAN ELABORATE COUP STRATEGY INCLUDING MASS DEMON- STATIONS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND INVOLVING MANY HIGH OFFICIALS IN ITS OPERATION. SUSPICION OF COMPLICITY OR AT LEAST FOREKNOWLEDGE TOUCHES EVERY MEMBER OF MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN) EXCEPT PERHAPS SECRETARY GENERAL LT. COLONEL FILIFING SISSOKO, MINISTER OF EDUCATION LT. COLONEL YOUSSEUF TRAORE, AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS LT. COLONEL MISSA KONE. NUMEROUS OFFICERS AND SOME CIVIL SERVANTS AND BUSINESSMEN MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER'S LOT. EX-FOREIGN MINISTER  
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COLONEL CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO IS SAID TO HAVE DIS- CUSSED POSSIBLE COUP WITH PRESIDENT BEFORE LEAVING FOR OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN TRIPOLI BUT FAILED TO REVEAL HIS OWN COMPLICITY, THUS PRECIPITATING HIS LATER ARREST. DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY SEIZED AFTER FEBRU- ARY 28 LISTS CISSOKHO AS TITULAR PRESIDENT OF POST- COUP GOVERNMENT. YET CISSOKHO'S INVOLVEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN PERIPHERAL AND PRESIDENT IS GIVING HIM CONSIDER- ATION. HE HAS NOT BEEN STRIPPED OF MILITARY RANK AS HAVE OTHER CMLN PLOTTERS, AND AT LAST WORD HE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO HIS HOME, WHERE HE REMAINS UNDER DETEN- TION.

6. PRESIDENT FOREWARNED. PRESIDENT TRAORE WAS EVIDENTLY AWARE OF POTENTIAL CHALLENGE TO HIS POWER. IN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO ALGERIAN PRESS AND PUBLISHED HERE MARCH 13, PRESIDENT SAID PLOT HAD BEEN HATCHING A LONG TIME AND FACT THAT IT HAD JUST BEEN FORESTALLED WAS DUE TO HIS PATIENCE WITH PLOTTERS AND NUMEROUS EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN TO BRING THEM BACK TO REASON. VICE CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF GENDARMERIE, MAJOR MAHAMADOU KEITA, NOW INTERIM HEAD OF GENDARMERIE, SERVED AS INTERMEDIARY

BETWEEN  
TWO CAMPS IN CONCILIATION WCFORT AND ALERTED  
PRESIDENT THAT OPPOSITION WAS DETERMINED TO STAGE COUP.

7. INTERIM APPOINTMENTS. PRESIDENT TRAORE NOW FACES  
DIFFICULT TASK OF CHOISING NEW LEADERSHIP FOR VACANT  
MILITARY AND CABINET POSTS FROM AMONG PERSONNEL WHOSE  
LOYALTY IS STILL SUSPECT. MOST VACATED POSITIONS ARE  
NOW BEING HANDLED ONLY IN ACTING CAPACITIES. PRESIDENT  
TOLD ALGERIAN PRESS THAT, FOLLOWING EVENTS OF FEBRU-  
ARY 28, HE HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO PURGE ADMINISTRATION  
AND STATE ENTERPRISES. WE CAN THUS EXPECT IMPORTANT  
CHANGES IN MALIAN CIVIL SERVICE OVER NEXT WEEKS AND  
RESULTANT PARALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE INTERIM.

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8. SECURITY PROBLEMS. ABSENCE OF LEADERS AND UNCE-  
TAINY ABOUT EXTENT OF CURRENT PURGE LEAVE POLICE AND  
SECURITY SERVICES IN DISARRAY. SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
CMLN, FILIFING SISSOKO, ASSURED POLICE OFFICERS OF  
BAMAKO, KATI, AND KOULIKORO IN SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 13 THAT ARRESTS WERE MADE ON BASIS OF INVOLVEMENT  
IN COUP PLOT, NOT BECAUSE OF FORMER TIES WITH EX-  
DIRECTOR OF SECURITY. SISSOKO URGED OFFICERS TO HONOR  
THEIR UNIFORM BY FILLING GAPS IN LEADERSHIP AND ASSUR-  
ING PROTECTION OF CITIZENS. CAPTAIN AMADOU TOURE HAS  
BEEN NAMED INTERIM COORDINATOR OF POLICE ACTIVITIES  
AND SECURITY SERVICES.

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9. PRESIDENT'S IMAGE. PRESIDENT TRAORE IS TAKING MORE PERSONAL ROLE IN MALIAN LEADERSHIP. IN RESPONSE DURING ALGERIAN PRESS INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT, WHO USUALLY CLOAKS STATEMENT IN COLLECTIVE AUTHORITY OF CMLN, REFERRED TO THIS PERSONAL EFFORTS IN RECENT EVENTS AND AFFIRMED THAT "I, MOUSSA, WILL ALWAYS REMAIN FAITHFUL TO MY OATH OF OFFICE." EVENTS OF PAST WEEKS MAY ELEVATE PRESIDENT TO HEROIC STATURE AND ESTABLISH HIM AS SINGLE CHOICE FOR MALI'S LEADER WITHIN ANY NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

9. CONCLUSION. PRESIDENT TRAORE, BY ABORTING A BROADLY BASED COUP PLOT, HAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HIS AUTHORITY AND IS NOW IN A POSITION TO DIRECT HIS COUNTRY TOWARD PROMISED CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. REPRES-

SION OF COUP HAS, HOWEVER, ELIMINATED LEADERSHIP  
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IN KEY MILITARY COMMANDS AND LEAVES SECURITY SITUATION PRECARIOUS. AS SUSPICION SPREADS AND ARRESTS CONTINUE, MALIAN ADMINISTRATION IS BECOMING TOTALLY ABSORBED IN AFTERMATH OF PREEMPTED COUP. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE AFFAIRS OF STATE IN MALI RETURN TO NORMAL COURSE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014